The Central Government schemes in operation in Orissa such as Growth Centre, Industrial infrastructure Upgradation, Integrated Infrastructure Development, Cluster Development Programme aim at further developing the manufacturing sector.

Import Authorization Scheme

3347. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new Duty Free Import Authorization Scheme incorporating salient features of some existing export promotion schemes, will be substitute for some schemes notably the Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme that are not compatible with the WTO rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the new scheme is likely to boost India's export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Duty Free Import Authorisation Scheme is a combination of the features of Advance Authorisation Scheme and the Duty Free Replenishment Certificate (DFRC) Scheme. The scheme has replaced the DFRC Scheme and the features of the scheme are similar to Advance Authorisation Scheme in terms of WTO compatibility. The scheme allows flexibility to the exporters either to utilize the entire inputs or to transfer part of inputs or all the inputs. The exemption from all indirect taxes on imported inputs will reduce the cost of production for the export in comparison to the DFRC Scheme.

Construction of exhibition grounds outside Delhi

3348. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans to build state-of-the-art Exhibition grounds for holding trade fairs outside Delhi;

(b) if so, what is the schedule for completing the buildings for new fair ground for ITPO;

(c) to what extent Government are aware that the growing need for exports require better and bigger grounds with hotels nearby; and

(d) the steps proposed to encourage exports through better exhibition grounds and trade fair organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Keeping in view the need for state-of-the-art Exhibition and Convention Centre, India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) has formulated an Optimum Development Project for upgradation of existing facilities and creation of additional facilities at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, which is under consideration of the Government. ITPO has set up exhibition facilities in Chennai and Bangalore in collaboration with Governments of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka respectively. A project for setting up of Trade Centre at Guwahati in Assam to cater to the needs of the North Eastern Region is under implementation. Establishment of an Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh is under consideration of ITPO and Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Exports by leather industry

3349. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether the leather industry proposes to double its exports by 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this industry also proposes to adopt global manufacturing practices to improve the quality of its products; and

(d) the status of this industry in Orissa and what is the action plan of Government to help this backward State to improve this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Council for Leather